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The Medical Officer of Health's

ANNUAL REPORT

for

Eastry Rural District

1958

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT

for

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT

. 1958

IN OFFICE

Chairman of the Council	11. D. WILKWICK, - 5q., 311.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	Co_ncil or W. P. Farring tor
Clerk to the Council	Cha . Fvans, Esq., M.B.E.
Senior Public Health Inspector	W. H. Sayers, Fsq., C.R.S.I. M.S I.A.
Surveyor	R. J. Meacher, Esq., A.I.A.A. M.R.S.I.

To the Chairman and Members of Eastry Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I present a report covering the year 1958. The Chief Public Health Inspector's report was presented early in the year and will be circulated to the statutory recipients along with this report. On the lines of last year's report an attempt is made to present it in a readable form. While it is regretted that this report appears so late in the year, it may assist you in anticipation of estimates to have past, present and future in mind when you consider expenditure on public health matters.

<u>Population:</u> For no reason to do with the permanent population the mid-year figure fell a further 1,210 making a drop of 1,560 in two years and leaves our population at the 22,840 level.

During the year 373 live babies were born, eleven died under age 1 year and 274 other deaths occurred. There were also 9 stillbirths. The net increase during the year was 88 persons, 46 males and 42 females.

Deaths: There was a sharp drop in the annual deaths from 388 in the previous year to 285 in 1958. The drop occurring in both sexes, and this gave a death rate of 12.5 per 1,000 persons, corrected for population variations to 9.1 per 1,000 and comparing well to the England and Wales figure of 11.7 per 1,000.

Births: The new boys numbered 198 and the new girls 175, and this total of 373 births gives a Birth rate of 16.3 per 1,000. The population variation correction converts this to 19.3 per 1,000. The comparable England and Wales rate was 16.4 per 1,000. These rates show no significant variation on 1957.

Causes of Deaths: The causes of deaths show several points of interest in the reduction in some causes. There is a welcome drop in deaths from lung cancer to less than half that for 1957 or 1956. As one would expect there was a fall in deaths from the influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis group through the absence of an autumn epidemic of influenza such as we experienced in 1957 but deaths from other respiratory diseases showed an increase. This comment excludes tuberculosis from which no deaths occurred.

A cause of death in which there is a trend of increase, and one that snips off man in the bloom of his most responsible years is coronary thrombosis. This is a stress disease of high pressure existence.

Amongst the infant deaths there were two cases of respiratory tract infection in the 1 - 4 months age group. The common cold in the adult may be very dangerous to infants, and it is a wise precaution for people with colds to keep away from other folk's babies.

<u>Infectious Diseases:</u> It was not a MEASLES year for we had had a fair number of cases in 1957 but despite that we registered 46 notified cases in the 3rd quarter of the year.

The pulmonary TUBERCULOSIS cases showed a satisfactory decrease continuing the trend of 1957 and are now half the 1956 level.

There was no prevalence of dysentery but a sharp localised outbreak of FOOD POISONING occurred in a residential college due to Salmonella Typhi Murium.

It was a clear year for POLICMYELITIS, a very helpful situation while progress was being made with policmyelitis vaccination of the under 15 age group.

The number of cases of SCARLET FEVER dropped to the low level usually experienced. Thus the 1957 increase was not maintained.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks: An outbreak of food poisoning due to Salmonella Typhi Murium occurred in a residential educational unit. This involved 21 out of 102 resident staff and students and 3 of the non-resident domestic staff. While the source of the contaminant that caused the trouble could have been eggs, it could as easily have been an unsuspecting symptomless carrier amongst the staff. Evidence indicated that the outbreak arose from the consumption of some infected article of food. It was explosive in occurrence and died out as quickly as it occurred except for the aftermath of sick persons who took anything up to 7 days to recover.

One of the Primary Schools had been having much trouble with an epidemic illness known as Winter Vomitting disease or Epidemic Nausea. This had an apparent seasonal incidence and had been recorded in the Headmistress's log book as occurring over a number of years. The cause of the illness which is a short attack of acute nausea or actual vomitting often occurring during the night or early morning, is not yet known. The Headmistress

had recorded outbreaks in October, 1953, May 1955, May 1956, March 1957 and December 1957. Thus the seasonal incidence is autumn and spring. A full investigation revealed no cause. It is interesting that the illness was so short in its duration that in few if any cases was a doctor called in, and the majority of the local doctors knew nothing of the presence of this illness. A Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health came down to obtain first hand knowledge of the occurrence, as this is not the only case of such recurring outbreaks of this illness.

Vaccination and Immunization. The protection of the child population against certain infectious diseases is done through the County Council scheme under the National Health Services Act in which local general practitioners all take part.

Poliomyelitis - During the year further progress was made in the protection of the age under 15 population and a start made on the age groups up to 25 as well as expectant mothers and other priority groups. Some 46% of the under 15's had been protected with two injections by the end of the year. Within this group the level was 49% for school children and 41% for the pre-school group.

<u>Diphtheria</u> - Only 45% of the school and pre-school population are now fully protected with another 28% only partially protected because booster injections have not been obtained.

Smallpox - Less than one in three of our babies are being protected against smallpox. This is a most serious decline and if this is allowed to become our level of protection our defences are gone against spread of the disease if it is introduced from air or sea. The matter rests with parents. Smallpox vaccination is no longer compulsory but is none the less necessary. It seems that the devil you know receives more thought than the devil you do not know for whooping cough vaccination is sought eagerly. But some of us remember the smallpox devil.

Whooping Cough - The number seeking whooping cough inoculations represented 10 out of 12 babies born.

STATISTICS.

Population Mid 1958 - 22,840 persons.

Area of District - 54,276 acres.

<u>Vital Statistics</u> (presented according to ministry of Health Circular 22/58).

Live Births: 373. Male 198. Female 175.

Live Birth rate per 1,000 population - 16.3 (England & Wales 16.4) (Correction factor 1.18 - 19.3 per 1,000).

Stillbirths: 9. Male 4 Female 5.

Stillbirths per 1,000 live and - 23.5 (England & Wales 21.5) stillbirths:

Total live and still births: 382

Infant Deaths: 11. Male 5 Female 6.

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live 29.5 (England & Wales 22.5) - births (total)

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births: legitimate 27 (10 suc illegitimate 200 (1 suc

Neonatal Mortality: 18.7 (first 4 weeks)

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births: 1.3%

Maternal Deaths: Nil.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths: Nil.

Deaths all ages: 285. Male 152. Female 133.

Death rate - 12.5 per 1,000 persons. (England & Wales 11.7) (correction factor 0.73 gives 9.1 per 1,000 population).

Deaths - Cancer of Lung & Fronchus: 6. Males 6. Females Nil.

Death rate from this cause in males per 10,000 - 5.6 (estimated male population 10,640) (England & Wales 7.83)

Causes of Death

	1958	· <u>1957</u> .
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	-	4
" Other. All other Infectious or parasitic Diseases.	-	1
Malignant Neoplasms. Stomach. " " Lungs & Bronchus. " Breast. " Uterus. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms. Leukaemia and Aleukaemia.	5 6 4 7 23 1 (46)	12 15 7 3 35 1 (73)
Diabetes. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System. Coronary Disease. Angina. Hypertension with Heart Disease. Other Heart Diseases. Other Circulatory Diseases.	35 42 6 57 16 (156)	3 50 38 9 88 21 (209)
Influenza. Pneumonia. Bronchitis. Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	1 16 12 10 (39)	15 3
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea. Nephritis and Nephrosis. Hyperplasia of Prostrate. Pregnancy. Childbirth. Abortion. Congenital Malformation. Other defined and Ill defined Diseases.	6 2 2 - 1 20	5 - 7 2 - 3 25
All other Accidents.	4 7	4 5
Suicide. Homicide or War Operations.	2	1 -
	ale: 152 emale: 133	210 178
TOTAL:	<u>285</u>	<u> 388</u>

Infant Deaths

Cause of Death:		nder hrs.	- 1	week	- 1 m	enth	- 1	year	TOTA
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Μ.	F.	\mathbb{M} .	F.	M.
Congenital Defect.	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	1.	-
Frematurity.	2	-	1.	-	_			-	3
Blood Disease of Newborn	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asphyxia Neonatorum or Respiratory Failure.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Birth injury and other Accidents.	-	1	_	-	-	-	1	_	1
Infection of Respiratory System.	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
TOTALS:	3	2	1	1	-	-	1	3	5

Total: - 11
Total under 4 weeks: 7

Infectious Diseases.

The following tabulations shows the incidence and age distribution of cases during 1958.-

	_k uar	√uarters	OI X	Year		Dy Ag	Age Groups	De		Totals	Ω Ω
	lst	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65 +	1958	1957
Scarlet Fever.	4	Н	ı		-1	3	 	I	l ı	7	23
Weasles.	16	13	46	⊢ 1	35	39	6	2	-	98	275
Whooping Cough.	70	0	2		14	a	⊣	ı	ı	17	71
Pneumonia.			t	ı	1	ı	I	2	ı	N	∞
Dysentery.	ı	ı	2	ı	ı	⊣	I	<u></u>	ı	2	H
Acute Encephalitis(Infective)	ı		ı	1	1	ı	1	[]	1	 1	1
Poliomyelitis.	ı	t	1	ı	t	1	ı	ı	ı	ı	7
Puerperal Pyrexia.	ı	t	Н	ı	1	ı	ı	H	ı	.⊢l	⊣
Food Poisoning.	1	21	t		ŀ	ı	H	21	1	22	ı
Erysipelas.	ı	t	I		1	ı	i	Н	1	Н	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	2	m	N	Μ	.1	ı	2	α	ı	10	13
Tuberculosis (Other).	H	ı	П	t	1	ı	Н		t	2	Н

Tuberculosis Detail.

Age distribution of notifications of all forms of tuber-culcsis:-

	Under 15 15 - 25 25 - 45 Over 45	Male " "	3 1 - 6	Female	1 1 -		
	Totals:	Male	10	Female	2	Total:	12
	Respiratory Other Forms	Male "	8 2	Female	2	Total: Total:	10
Numbe	er on T.B. Regist	er at	31/12/5	8.			
	Respiratory Other Forms	Male	118 26	Female	104 31		
Figur	es for 1957.						
	Respiratory Other Forms	wale	129 28	Female	116 32		

Immunization and Vaccination.

		Total Persons <u>O - 15</u>	Persons O - 2
Diphtheria:	Primary Immunization:	269	221
:	Reinforcing:	121	1
Smallpox:	Primary Vaccination:	131	116
:	Revaccination:	7	-
Thooping Coup	gh Inoculations:	364	228
Poliomyeliti	s Vaccination:	2324	364

Environmental Matters.

Clean Air: During a weekend in November there was much discomfort caused to residents of the lower part of the village of Eastry due to acrid sulphurous fog. The climatic conditions were unusual. The air was particularly still, the night sky clear, and a rapidly falling temperature caused fog to settle in to low lying folds of countryside. There is an unusual land formation south of the village of Eastry. A shallow valley which follows an underground waterflow, runs north from Tilmanstone Colliery towards the village and there narrows into a steep sided valley known as the Lynch.

The spoil bank of the Colliery has for some years been bedevilled by spontaneous combustion of the dirt from a useful seam of coal that has a low combustion point. This combustion is controlled by banking, rolling and laking with overlying water. It seems that the escaping gases added to the humidity arising from the controlling lake were cooled in the still frosty air and gradually poured down the valley. When the mist so formed reached the narrowing neck at the Lynch a heaped up fog poured round the low lying part of the village leaving the higher part standing out like some island in the clear night air. This situation lasted until the morning sun could reach the valley and disperse the moisture, and the inhabitants suffered a somewhat concentrated taste of the emanations from the spoil bank.

Housing: Some progress towards the provision of housing units suitable for persons living in unfit and condemned dwellings was seen during the year. As so many of these cases are elderly persons or persons of limited means who because of this do not press to be moved to new homes, it calls for a positive approach to the problem, and the uplifting of these cases into small bungalow type dwellings of low rental. There appears to be enough sites for such units to meet the needs of cases still living in condemned houses.

Drainage and Sewerage: Further progress was made in improving amenities in the district and the Woodnesborough scheme started during the year. It is always a disappointment when owners fail to take advantage of new sewers provided and the process of coercion is galling and slow. This matter is linked up with financial grants and aids on which the Council has determined its policy and may well be ready to go further. It was a reasonable move to limit cesspool emptying services in areas that had been sewered although it forced some discomfort on tenants of owners unwilling to link and appeared to reduce services to some who had no prospect or possibility of linking.

Agricultural Harvesting.

The decline in hop pickers' damps is a really welcome development for it is always a difficult duty to enforce standards in small camps occupied for only a three week season in the year. Pickers have little idea of camping methods; growers have too much worry already from the picking and the pickers to be patient with health inspectors. The development of machine picking is therefore a good thing.

It appears that farmers are well informed on the requirements of the Agricultural (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act in the need to provide conveniences for field workers. The task of enforcing the standards for sanitary conveniences falls to the public health department. How to staff to meet the duty is a problem yet to be faced. At present attention is given where it can be given, but the Council may have to consider some part-time seasonal post to help the Public Health Inspectors, for you are not staffed to carry sudden heavy loads, but only to bear the constant daily burdens.

May I record my thanks to Mr. Sayers and his staff for their help and to the other Chief Officers for their co-operation and support and to the Council for its interest in public health affairs.

Your `bedient servant,

M.D., Ch.R., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

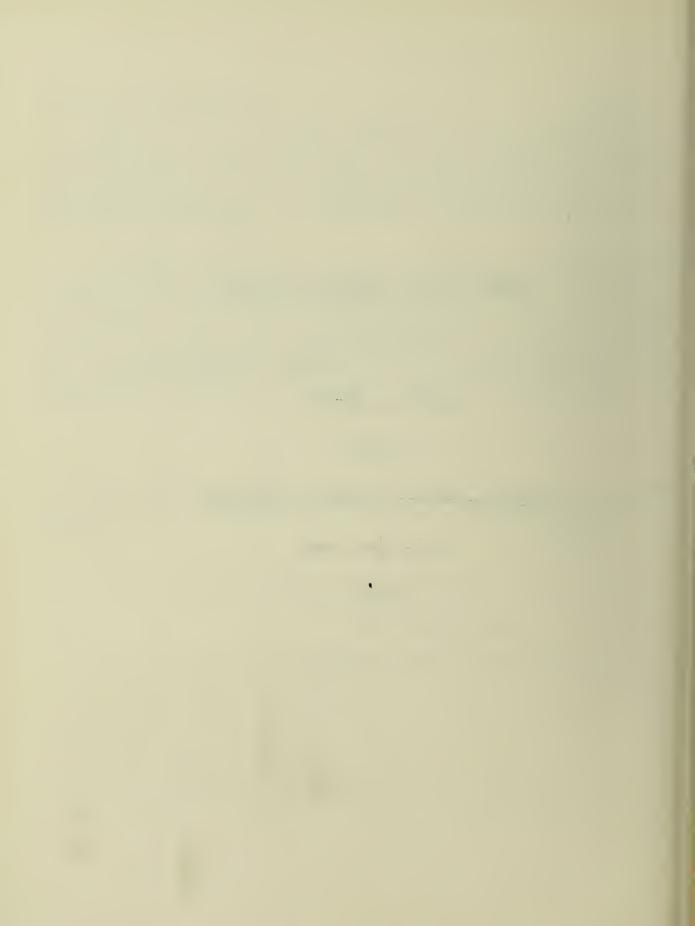
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1958



To the Chairman and Members of The Eastry Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on work for which your Public Health Inspectors have been responsible during the year 1958.

Owing to accumulation of work and staff changes the report this year has been reduced in size and scope and is limited to brief comments upon functions to which most time has been devoted, followed by statistical information.

Housing.

Limited progress was made in Slum Clearance during the year although 70% of the houses in the Council's programme have now been dealt with, but it should be noted that fourteen houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders have been made were still occupied. While it is true that in some cases this is due to the tenant's unwillingness to leave, it is uncertain how far this wish is dictated by the absence of suitable alternative accommodation at rents they are either able or willing to meet.

There is a clear need for housing for elderly people in many villages in the district, either by new building or by alterations and improvements to existing houses.

Although the Council have been making Improvement Grants for four-and-a-half years, the demand continues unabated and seems likely to increase in the near future.

The present legal standard of fitness of a house may be that defined in the Housing Act, 1957, but there is little doubt that the modern conception of what constitutes a fit house is nothing less than the standard necessary to qualify for an Improvement Grant. Grants have now become an integral part of housing administration and now that, in this district at least, owners can be approached with the offer of a Grant and also a loan for the balance of the cost of repairs and improvements, progress is limited only by the time available.

Drainage.

The public sewer has now been available in the village of Wingham for two-and-a-half years and it is disappointing to record that at the end of 1958, 57 pail closets still existed in that area and 65 houses had not been connected to the sewer. Furthermore, 23 houses were without satisfactory drainage.

The position is equally unsatisfactory in the village of Eastry where 188 houses for which the sewer is available, were not connected, 64 of which still had pail closets and 37 were without satisfactory drainage.

Viewing the district as a whole, however, good progress was made during the year, 96 existing houses being provided with drainage systems and 121 pail closets abolished.

It seems inevitable that progress in one direction creates fresh problems in another and, just as the extension of a piped water supply brought in its wake the need for drainage, so the provision of house drainage in unsewered areas increases the demand upon the cesspool emptying service.

The answer is, of course, more sewerage schemes, and in this connection I would suggest that the most urgent need at the moment is for the second stage of the Woodnesborough scheme.

- 2 -

Food Hygiene.

Every effort has been made to maintain regular inspections of all food premises during the year. It is pleasing to record the opening of the new kitchens and restaurant at Betteshanger Colliery but even more encouraging to be able to report a steady improvement in hygiene at all three colliery canteens.

Real progress in food hygiene is slow and unspectacular and in spite of the general provision of washing facilities it is difficult to assess the degree to which hand washing - one of the basic elements of food hygiene, is practised.

I should like to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement received from the Chairman and Members of the Council during the year and the continued help and co-operation from all members of the staff.

Your obedient servant,

W.H. SAYERS

Senior Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

HOUSING

(1)	Slum C	<u>learance.</u>		
		o. of houses reported under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957	• • •	3
	N_{i}	o. of Demolition Orders made	• • •	1
	No	c. of Closing Orders made	• • •	1
	N	o. of houses demolished	• • •	3
		o. of houses closed in pursuance of formal Undertakings	• • •	3
(2)	Improve	ement Grants.		
		otal No. of houses in respect of which Gran	nts	346
	To	ctal expenditure involved	£211	,888
	To	otal of Grants approved	£85	,801
		he following are details of Grants approved	l dur	ing the
	(3	l) No. of dwellings in respect of which Grants were approved	• • •	72
		Owner/occupied	• • •	18
		Agricultural dwellings	• • •	52
	(2	2) Total cost of schemes approved: £46,4 (Average: £645	96 per	dwellin
	(3	3) Amount ascribed to improvements: £40,3	}19	
	(4	4) Amount ascribed to repairs: £6,1 (Average: £85	.77 per	dwelling
	(;	5) Total of Grants approved: £19,5 (Average: £271	66 per	dwelling
	(6	6) The maximum grant of £400 was approved	in 7	cases.

incl	The uded	followi in sche	ing is a summary of the major improvemes approved:-	ements
	Prov	vision o	of bathrooms	71
		11	" water closets	56
		11	" hot water systems	68
		11	" drainage	53
		tt	" ventilated foodstores	36
		t†	" fuel stores	5
		11	" new windows	18
		11	" additional rooms	5
	Inte	rnal wi	ring for electricity	9
(3)	Rent	Act, 1	<u>957.</u>	
,			Certificates of Disrepair	
	(1)	No. of Disr	applications for Certificates of epair	14
	(2)	No. of	Undertakings given by landlords	6
	(3)	No. of	Certificates issued	
		(a)	In respect of some defects	10
		· (b)	In respect of all defects	4
	(4)	No. of	Certificates cancelled	4
			visits in connection with	68

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 38 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year (i) (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Number of persons concerned in such (ii) 24 cases... DRAINAGE The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:-800 No. of visits in connection with drainage work ... 255 No. of water tests 184 No. of mirror tests 96 Existing houses provided with drainage systems ... 98 Existing houses, drainage altered or repaired 83 Existing houses, connected to sewers 29 Cesspools constructed 24 Cesspools abolished 25 Septic tanks constructed 121 Pail closets converted to water closets

(4)

Overcrowding.

WATER SUPPLY

Parish:	No. of Dwelling Houses.	No. of houses with piped supply into houses.	No. cf houses with main supply by standpipes.	No. of houses without piped supply.
COL	70	65	5	-
SH	826	804	17	5
YLESHAM	1093	1093	-	-
ASTRY	537	531	5	1
YTHORNE	584	583	1	-
OCDNESTONE	137	137	_	-
IINSTER	745	743	_	2
ICNKTON	136	136	_	-
ONINGTON	221	220	-	1
ORTHBOURNE	270	269	-	1
RESTON	206	197	6	3
IPPLE	95	95	_	-
ARRE	42	38	4	-
HOLDEN	170	169	-	1
TAPLE .	143	139		4
TOURMOUTH	89	86	3	-
T.NICHOLAS	211	202	3	6
UTTON	232	228	2	2
ILMANSTONE	108	108		-
INGHAM	431	417	9	5 -
OODNESBORO!	340	327	9	4
QRTH	241	239	1	1
TOTAL	6927	6826	65	36

INSPECTION OF MEAT & FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding <u>Cows</u>	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horse
Number killed (if known)	62	_	8	602	400	-
Number inspected.	62	_	3	602	400	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci. Whole carcases condemned	_	_	-	-	3	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3		_	17	19	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	4.84%			2.82%	5.5%	-
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	ana	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-		-	34	_
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.61%	-	_	-	8.5%	
Cysticercosis. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	_	-	-	-	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	_		_	_	-	
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	_	-	_	

Total weight of carcases, parts of carcases and offal rejected for all diseases

	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.
Carcases	4	1	20
Parts of Carcases	4	1	-
Offal	1	-	10
TOTAL	9	2	2

In addition to meat surrendered at slaughterhouses the following food was inspected at the request of traders and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:-

Canned Food.

Ham	• • •	 			(488	
Corned Beef	• • •	 • • •	12		(72	lbs)
Meat	• • •	 	15	11		
Fish	• • •	 	4	11		
Fruit	• • •	 	58	11		
Milk		 	10	11		
Peas		 	5	11		
Soups	• • •	 	1Ć	11		
Miscellanecus		 	11	11	•	

Other Foods.

Bacon		 	 863	lbs.
Fish	• • •	 • • •	 28	lbs.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of Work for the Year 1958.

INSPECTIONS.

No. of Properties inspected.	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u> <u>Property</u>	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural Property	Business Fremises	TOTAL
(a) Following Complaint:	3	113	26	36	178
No. found to be infested:	3	104	26	34	167
(b) In course of Survey:	4	52	603	33	692
No. found to be infested.	4	28	155	20	207
TREATMENTS.					
(a) Rats.					- 1
Major:	3	5	37	13	58
Minor:	4	85	30	17	136
(b) Mice:					-
<u>Major:</u>	-	• 6	-	8	14
Minor:	-	9	-	4	13.

INSPECTIONS

A total of 3,444 inspections were made during the year as follows:-

In connection with In connection with In connection with	the	Housing Acts Rent Act Public Health	hets	• • •	• • •	1051 68 352
Water Supply	• • •	•••		• • •	• • •	74
Drainage		• • • • • •	• • •		• • •	800
Dairies	• • •	• • • • • •	• • •			71
Slaughterhouses			• • •			224
Butchers Shops		• • • • • •				75
Other Food Shops			• • •			76
Restaurants		• • • • • •		• • •		80
Bakehouses			• • •			55
Ice-cream Premises		• • • • • •			• • •	39
Factories		• • • • • •		• • •		39 89
Hop Pickers' Camps		• • • • • •				41
Infectious Disease						33
Verminous Premises				• • •		42
Shops Acts			• • •	• • •		32
Moveable Dwellings						98
Knackers' Yard		• • • • • • •				60
Public Houses	• • •	• • • • • • •	• • •		• • •	66
Rats & Mice						18
Trado a miles	• • •	•••	• • •	• • •	• • •	10

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